



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 8 January 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
8 JANUARY 1968

1. North Vietnam

The two suspected coastal defense missile sites south of Thanh Hoa were struck repeatedly by US aircraft on 5 and 6 January. There is no firm evidence from photography or pilot reports, however, that either site was occupied at the time of the attacks.

2. South Vietnam

[redacted] 3.3(h)(2)
at a meeting with President Thieu and some of the senior generals on 5 January, it was decided not to accept General Thang's resignation as chief of the Revolutionary Development cadres and the Regional and Popular Forces. Instead the reasons for his discontent would be investigated.

Thang has charged privately that the Revolutionary Development program is lagging because of foot-dragging by the corps commanders. Their attempts to hang on to political power and patronage are said to be causing Thieu to delay reorganization of the armed forces and provincial administrative reforms.

3. [redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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French Views on Hanoi's Negotiating Posture:

Etiene Manac'h, the Director of Asian Affairs for the French Foreign Ministry, told an embassy officer in Paris Saturday that Mai Van Bo, Hanoi's representative in Paris, had confirmed to him on 3 January the "official nature" of Trinh's statement. Manac'h claimed Bo intended this confirmation to be passed to US authorities. Manac'h went on to say that the Trinh statement in no way changes the French government's understanding of Hanoi's position; Paris already knew that Hanoi was ready to enter into talks if bombing were halted unconditionally.

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[redacted] Reports
on the living and working conditions of the North
Vietnamese people continue to come in [redacted]

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[redacted] The most recent add to the
growing body of evidence that Hanoi has engaged in
an extensive relocation of industry, particularly
in the heavily bombed areas of the southern prov-
inces.

One report gives details of the organization
of civilian bomb damage crews. The peacetime regu-
lation that each adult donate 25 days of labor to
state projects each year was broadened in 1965 to
a requirement that all adults under 45 respond to
unlimited calls for work anywhere for any length
of time. Only after the first 25 days of such
duty does the state begin to supply the workers'
food.

A medical technician who worked in a hospital
in the northwestern part of the country for ten
years reports that the young Vietnamese-educated

medical doctors are not nearly as well trained as the older French-educated ones in his hospital. He also reports that political considerations severely hampered the administration of his hospital.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report.